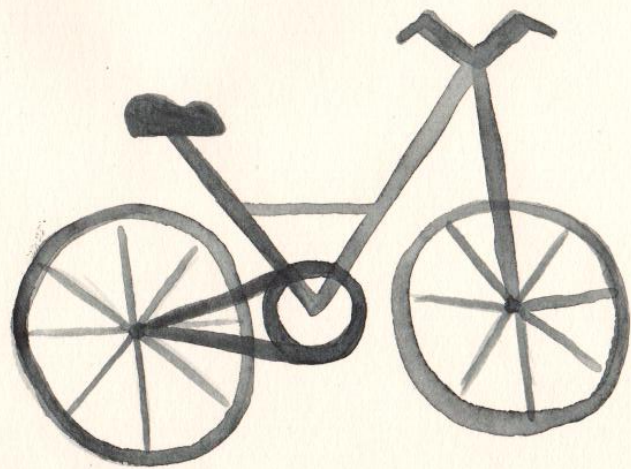


THE FASTEST  
WAY HOME

WRITTEN  
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AND

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Scarlett, Eloise, Sam, and Jack were all best friends who did everything together.



One day, Jack suggested they ride their bikes to his house after school so they could play.

“You can follow me home. My way is the fastest,” Jack exclaimed.

Eloise, Scarlett, and Sam chimed in arguing, “Our paths are faster.”

Jack responded, “No! My way is the fastest.”



Scarlett made the suggestion that they should have a race to Jack's house to see whose path was the fastest. They all agreed to peddle their bikes at the same speed, so no one could travel faster than another.

READY... SET...



Eloise took the zig-zag road. She thought it would be the fastest because of all the sharp turns.

Sam took the curly road. He thought it would be the fastest because of its big loops.

Jack took the “L” shaped road. He thought it would be the fastest because he only had to make one turn before arriving at his house.

Scarlett took the straight road. She thought it would be the fastest because she didn't have to make any turns before arriving at Jack's house.

Sam, Scarlett, Eloise, and Jack each took different paths traveling at the same speed. Who do you think got there first? Which road would you take and why?





Scarlett's path was the most direct route. She arrived first.

Jack came in second because he only made one turn.

Eloise, on the zig-zag path, came in third, because she had to make several short turns.

Sam came in fourth because the



Each child drove at the same speed. They arrived at Jack's house at different times because some paths were shorter while other routes were longer.

Jack suggested, "Let's ride our bikes back to the school but at different speeds."

Who do you think needs to peddle the fastest and who needs to peddle the slowest so that all the children can arrive back to the school at the same time?



Instead, they all decided it would be better to play games in Jack's backyard and eat orange flavored popsicles.

As they played they all talked about the road they took to Jack's house. Each path had its own benefits and made the children feel a certain way.

The "L" shaped road made Jack feel like a race car driver turning to the finish line.

The curly road made Sam feel like a snake winding through a desert.

The straight road made Scarlett feel like an astronaut blasting off into space.

The zig-zag road made Eloise feel like a robot making quick turns every which way.



## You Try!

Supplies: Paper, marker, string and scissors.

1. Cut four pieces of string about the same length.
2. Take your piece of paper and draw four lines. One straight line. One curly line. One zig-zag line. One “L” shaped line. Even though the lines are different, make sure they start and stop at the same place on the page.
3. Take your string and lay them over each line.
4. Take your marker and write a line at the top of each string and at the bottom of each string. (Make sure the string is still on the different lines.)
5. Predict with a friend which line you think will be the longest and which will be the shortest.
6. Take the strings off the lines and line them up next to each other.
7. Look to see which line needed the most string and which line needed the least string.
8. Talk with a friend about why you think the strings are different lengths even though they all start and stop at the same place on the page.